Available Mental Health/Criminal Justice Online Resources

LAW ENFORCEMENT
Without adequate training and access to community-based mental health resources, law enforcement officers face tremendous obstacles in responding to people with mental illness. This section identifies resources for local law enforcement agencies looking to address mental health issues.

- **A GAINS Center Guide for Implementing Police-Based Diversion Programs for People with Mental Illness:** Summarizes what law enforcement agencies are doing across the country to improve their responses to people with mental illness and explores how these agencies have overcome barriers to create and maintain effective programs by collaborating with the mental health community.
  www.gainscenter.samhsa.gov/pdfs/jail_diversion/PERF.pdf

- **Law Enforcement/Mental Health Partnership Program:** Describes a Consensus Project national initiative to provide resources for law enforcement leaders and their community partners to develop and enhance law enforcement/mental health programs. (Products are currently in development).
  consensusproject.org/downloads/Lawenforcementonepager.pdf

- **Consensus Project Report Recommendations:** Offers detailed recommendations, endorsed by leaders representing law enforcement and mental health systems across the country, to help policymakers and practitioners improve outcomes of law enforcement encounters with people with mental illness.
  consensusproject.org/topics/toc/ch-II

- **Navigating the Mental Health Maze: A Guide for Criminal Justice Personnel:** Provides a crash course for criminal justice professionals whose understanding of mental illness and the mental health system may be limited.
  consensusproject.org/mhcp/Navigating-MHC-Maze.pdf

- **Online Program Profiles of Specialized Law Enforcement-Based Responses:** Allows users to search law enforcement-based response programs in other communities across the country, and post questions directly to representatives of these programs.
  consensusproject.org/programs

COURTS
People with mental illness appear repeatedly before judges and cycle in and out of jail for low-level crimes which are often the result of untreated mental illness. This section identifies resources for mental health courts or other court-based initiative targeting defendants with a mental illness.

- **Transforming Florida's Mental Health System:** Final report of the Mental Health Subcommittee of the Supreme Court of Florida. Includes detailed planning, leadership, financing, and service development recommendations to improve Florida's public mental health system and prevent unnecessary justice system involvement.
  www.floridasupremecourt.org/pub_info/documents/11-14-2007_Mental_Health_Report.pdf

- **Essential Elements of a Mental Health Court:** Outlines 10 elements essential to mental health court design and implementation and provides background on why each element is important and how courts can adhere to it. (Product currently in draft form). consensusproject.org/mhcp/essential.elements

- **A Guide to Mental Health Court Design and Implementation:** Explains critical issues such as determining whether to establish a mental health court, defining the target population, ensuring confidentiality, sustaining the court, and other key considerations. consensusproject.org/mhcp/Guide-MHC-Design.pdf

- **A Guide to Collecting Mental Health Court Outcome Data:** Describes practical strategies for collecting data and evaluating the effectiveness of mental health courts. Written for mental health court practitioners and policymakers who want to measure the impact of court-based programs. consensusproject.org/mhcp/MHC-Outcome-Data.pdf

- **Navigating the Mental Health Maze: A Guide for Criminal Justice Personnel:** Provides a crash course for criminal justice professionals whose understanding of mental illness and the mental health system may be limited. consensusproject.org/mhcp/Navigating-MHC-Maze.pdf

- **A Judges' Primer on Mental Illness, Addictive Disorders, Co-occurring Disorders, and Integrated Treatment:** A one-page reference, written for judges, on mental illness, addictive disorders, co-occurring disorders, and integrated treatment. consensusproject.org/downloads/judges-primer.pdf

- **Online Program Profiles of Mental Health Courts and Other Court-Based Programs:** Allows users to search through court-based programs and post questions directly to representatives of these programs. The database contains program profiles in the following issue areas: Pre-trial, Adjudication and Sentencing, Training. consensusproject.org/programs

- **An Evaluation of the Fiscal Impact of Allegheny County Mental Health Court:** Special courts that sentence people with mental illnesses who are convicted of misdemeanors and low-level felonies to treatment instead of jail have the potential to save taxpayers money, according to a RAND Corporation study conducted for the Council of State Governments Justice Center. www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/TR439

CORRECTIONS

The number of people with mental illness who are in prison or jail, or under probation or parole supervision, has increased dramatically in recent years. This section identifies resources for initiatives targeting people with mental illness upon their admission to jail or prison, while they are incarcerated, and after they are released to the community to the supervision of probation and/or parole.

- **Corrections/Mental Health Case Studies:** Offers detailed and frank discussion of the successes and setbacks that corrections and mental health leaders in Kansas and Orange

County, Florida faced as they worked together to improve the response to people with mental illnesses transitioning from jail or prison to the community.
consensusproject.org/updates/features/nic-case-study

- **Collaboration Assessment Tool:** Enables leaders in corrections or mental health organizations to assess their current level of collaboration and chart a course for improving collaboration in four categories: knowledge base, systems, services, and resources.
consensusproject.org/assessment

- **Consensus Project Report Recommendations:** Offers detailed recommendations, endorsed by leaders representing jail, prison, community correction, and mental health systems across the country, to help policymakers and practitioners improve corrections-based responses to people with mental illness.
consensusproject.org/the_report/toc/ch-IV

- **Re-Entry Policy Council Report Recommendations:** Offers detailed recommendations for improving the likelihood of successful re-entry among adults with mental illness released from prison and jail.
www.reentrypolicy.org/reentry/Ch_B_Prison_and_Jail.aspx

- **Navigating the Mental Health Maze: A Guide for Criminal Justice Personnel:** Provides a crash course for criminal justice professionals whose understanding of mental illness and the mental health system may be limited.
consensusproject.org/mhcp/Navigating-MHC-Maze.pdf

- **SSI/SSA and Medicaid:** Provides background, relevant research, and case studies on promptly connecting people released from prison and jail, including those with mental illness, with Medicaid and other federal benefits.
www.reentrypolicy.org/reentry/Access_to_Federal_Benefits.aspx

- **Online Program Profiles of Corrections/Mental Health Programs:** Allows users to search through corrections/mental health programs in the following areas and post questions directly to representatives of these programs. The database contains program profiles in the following issue areas: Detention, Incarceration, Release Decision, Transition Planning, Post-Release Supervision, and Training.
consensusproject.org/programs

MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY
In communities across the country, mental health advocates have been a driving force for change in improving responses to people with mental illness involved in the criminal justice system. But while advocates in these communities may be familiar with how the lives of individuals with mental illness in the criminal justice systems can be impacted, they may be less familiar with how to engage potential partners in these systems. The resource in this section provides strategies for advocates to reach out to representatives from criminal justice / mental health systems looking to address these issues.

- **The Advocacy Handbook:** Recommends strategies to mental health advocates who want to improve outcomes for people with mental illness involved in the criminal justice system and are seeking to engage and focus policymakers and leaders in the criminal justice system.
  consensusproject.org/advocacy

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:
Council of State Governments – Criminal Justice/Mental Health Consensus Project:
consensusproject.org

Council of State Governments – Criminal Justice/Mental Health Information Network:
www.cjmh-infonet.org

Council of State Governments – Re-Entry Policy Council:
www.reentrypolicy.org/reentry/default.aspx

Council of State Governments/GAINS Center – Judges Leadership Initiative:
consensusproject.org/JLI

Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF): www.myflorida.com/cf_web

Florida Partners in Crisis (PIC): www.flpic.org

Florida Substance Abuse and Mental Health Corporation: samhcorp.org

Florida's Children First (FCF): floridaschildrenfirst.org

Miami-Dade County Grand Jury Report – Mental Illness and the Criminal Justice System: A Recipe for Disaster/A Prescription for Improvement:
www.miamisao.com/publications/grand_jury/2000s/index.html

Miami-Dade County Mayor's Mental Health Task Force – Final Report:
www.miamisao.com/publications/grand_jury/2000s/gj2004s.pdf

National Alliance on Mental Illness: www.nami.org

National GAINS Center /TAPA Center for Jail Diversion: gainscenter.samhsa.gov

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): www.samhsa.gov
- **Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS):** mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/cmhs
- **Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT):** csat.samhsa.gov
- **Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP):** prevention.samhsa.gov

SAMHSA's National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP):
nrepp.samhsa.gov/